

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCEM-02 INT-08 SCI-06 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 L-03

LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02

SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

OMB-01 DRC-01 NEA-10 IO-14 /191 W
----- 107317

R 291758Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9009

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, BE

SUBJECT: BELGIAN PETROLEUM IMPORTS/EXPORTS

REF: BRUSSELS 6123

1. SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES OF BELGIAN PETROLEUM COMPANIES MET WITH BELGAIN CABINET COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (CMCES) ON EVENING FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26 TO DISCUSS PETROLEUM SUPPLY SITUATION. ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY SOURCE BELGIAN MINISTERS INFORMED INDUSTRY THAT:

A. GOB WILL ATTEMPT ENSURE THAT ARAB BOYCOTT OF NETHERLANDS WILL NOT AFFECT BELGIAN CRUDE SUPPLIES (OVER 50 PERCENT TRANSITS ROTTERDAM).

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B. MINISTER FORAFFAIRS VAN ELSLANDE IS "IN CONTACT WITH OTHER EC FORAFFAIRS MINISTERS" IN EFFORT ARRANGE DIRECT EC APPROACH TO ARABS IN ORDER "ENSURE THAT EUROPEAN INTEREST ARE SAFEGUARDED".

2. INDUSTRY REPS WERE GIVEN STRONG ENCOURAGEMENT THAT GOB WILL PERMIT SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN LOCAL PETROLEUM PRICES IN VERY NEAR FUTURE. INCREASE LIKELY TO BE IN NEIGHBORHOOD OF \$30 PER TON FOR REFINED PRODUCTS, BRINGING BELGIAN RETAIL PRICES FOR GASOLINE AND OTHER LIGHT PRODUCTS UP TO DUTCH AND FRENCH AVERAGE.

3. BELGIAN MINISTERS ALSO ASKED INDUSTRY VOLUNTARILY REDUCE EXPORTS IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT LOCAL NEEDS ARE MET. MEANWHILE EXPORT LICENSE SYSTEM INSTALLED LAST WEEK (REFTEL) APPEARS TO BE WORKING MORE SMOOTHLY THAN AT FIRST. WE ARE UNABLE TO TELL WHETHER GOB ACTUALLY INTENDS AT THIS POINT TO RESTRICT EXPORTS (EITHER WITHIN OR OUTSIDE OF EC). DELAYS IN OBTAINING EXPORT PERMITS DURING FIRST DAYS OF NEW SYSTEM MAY HAVE BEEN ONLY ADMINISTRATIVE CLUMSINESS. STRAUZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, IMPORTS, EXPORTS, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005